

Mercy San Juan Hospital



July 25, 1995

David Werdegar, M.D., M.P.H.
OSHDP
Health Policy and Planning Division
1600 Ninth Street, Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California Hospital Outcomes Project

Dear Dr. Werdegar:

Mercy Healthcare Sacramento (MHS) is committed to ongoing clinical quality improvement. We support the analytic approach undertaken by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP). The California Outcomes Project provides a unique opportunity to evaluate our performance in relationship to hospitals across the state. In addition, MHS is asking its respective medical staffs to participate in the validation effort.

We call the reader's attention to certain issues to be addressed by the research team:

1. The presentation of two models (Model A, Model B) is confusing. We recommend that OSHDP select only one model for future reporting.
2. We continue to support OSHDP's decision not to report ranks for hospitals. The wide confidence intervals associated with the estimates of risk-adjusted outcomes lead to similarly wide confidence intervals associated with the corresponding ranks. As a consequence of these wide confidence intervals, we believe that the hospital ranks are too uncertain to validly order hospitals.
3. The format of the data returned to the facilities this year was more user friendly and we highly recommend that this practice be continued in future studies.

Thank you for allowing us to respond.

Sincerely,

Michael Ubaldi
Vice-President/
Chief Operating Officer

William Hicks, M.D.
Chief of Medical Staff